

APPENDIX P:

EXPERIMENTAL FORMS

The GSS has used split samples in 1973, 1974, 1985, 1986, and 1988-2004 and three forms were used in 1980, 1984, and 1987. The different experimental forms are designated on FORM as Form 1 (the standard wordings), Form 2 (the "y" variant wordings), and Form 3 (the "z" variant wordings).

In 1994-2006 there were also two samples (A and B) employed. As a result there are Forms 1 and 2 on samples A and B, or four versions (A1, A2, B1, B2). In 2008 there was only one sample. See also discussion on BALLOT in Appendix Q.

Split samples on the GSS have been used for three broad purposes. First, to test differences in the structure and/or wording of questions or scales. Second, to test the impact of context on questions including both the order that different questions appear in and the order of sub-parts of a single question. Third, in order to accommodate additional questions, some questions have been asked of respondents on only one form.

All of the questions that have either appeared in different versions or orders on the experimental forms or which appeared as a supplement on one form only are listed in Table P.1. The table lists the form on which the items appear and the table notes indicate the form differences on the context variations.

In addition to the experiments using FORM, the GSS has employed factorial vignettes in several years. The first on welfare was done in 1986 and is not part of the cumulative file (see Appendix S). The second on mental health was in 1996 and had 90 versions (see VIGVERSN and following variables). The third on terminal illness was in 1998 and there were six versions (see TERMVIO and following variables). The fourth on doctors and patients was in 2002 and there were six versions (see DOCVIG and following variables). The fifth on the mental health of children was in 2002 and had 32 versions (see CHLDVIG and following variables). The sixth on genes and environment was in 2004 and had 24 versions (see GENEVIG1 and following variables). The seventh on mental health and stigma was in 2006 and had 24 versions (see M1VIG1 and following variables).

Because of problems with the form randomization procedure used on the 1978, 1980, 1982 - 1985 surveys, users should weight by FORMWT to adjust for incomplete randomization. In general, one should use FORMWT whenever analyzing form-related variables. This includes 1) when comparisons are being made between experimental variables (e.g. COURTS and COURTSY in 1982), 2) when variables are being compared across years involving an experiment (e.g. EQWLTH which appears only on form 1 in 1978 with EQWLTH that appears on both forms in 1980, 1983, 1984, etc.), and 3) when a variable appears on one form only (e.g. the ISSP variables in 1985).

For full details on the problem with form randomization and FORMWT see GSS Methodological Report No. 36.¹

¹Tom W. Smith and Bruce L. Peterson, "Problems in Form Randomization on the General Social Surveys," July, 1986.

BUSPOW				1	
BUSTAX				1	
BUYAUTO					2
BUYBED					2
BUYFIXES					2
BUYHOME					2
BUYLAW					2
CANADA				C7	
CAPFIRM			3		
CAPIMP			3		
CAPINFO			3		
CARBUYA					1
CARBUYB					1
CARBUYC					1
CARBUYD					1
CARBUYE					1
CARBUYF					1
CARBUYG					1
CARBUY1					1
CARDEALR					1
CARPRIVT					1
CHINA				C6	
CHLDIDEL			C1		
CLASS	1		1		
CLASSY	2				
CLEAN		1	C1		
CLEANY		2		C3	1
CLEANZ		3			
COLAFF					1
COLAFFY					2
COLOP				1	
CONARMY		C2		1,2	
CONARMYY				3	
CONBUS		C2		1,2	
CONBUSY				3	
CONCLERG		C2		1,2	
CONCLERY				3	
CONEDUC		C2		1,2	
CONEDUCY				3	
CONFED		C2		1,2	
CONFEDY				3	
CONFINAN		C2		1,2	
CONFINAY				3	
CONJUDGE		C2		1,2	
CONJUDGY				3	
CONLABOR		C2		1,2	
CONLABOY				3	
CONLEGIS		C2		1,2	
CONLEGIY				3	
CONMEDIC		C2		1,2	
CONMEDIY				3	
COMPRESS		C2		1,2	
COMPRESY				3	
CONSCI		C2		1,2	
CONSCIY				3	
CONSIDER		1	C1		
CONSIDEY		2		C3	1
CONSIDEZ		3			
CONTROL		1	C1		
CONTROLY		2		C3	1
CONTROLZ		3			

CONTV		C2		1,2					
CONTVY				3					
COURTS	1		1						
COURTSY	2		2						
CREATOR				3					
CRIMFIRM				3					
CRIMHOLD					1				
CRIMIMP				3					
CRIMINFO				3					
CRIMREAD					1				
CRIMTAIL					1				
CRIMTAP					1				
CRTRHEAL				1,2					
CUTGOVT					1				
CUTHOURS					1				
DAILY								C14	
DATABANK				1					
DISCAFF						1			
DISCAFFM							1	1	2
DISCAFFW						2		2	1
DISCAFFY						2			
DIVLAW		1,2 ^a							
DIVLAWY		2							
DOINGDYS								C14	
DOINGFIN								C14	
DOINGTRN								C14	
DRINK1									2
DRINK3									2
DRINK5									2
DRINK6UP									1
DRINK8									2
DRINK12									2
DRINKDAY									1
DRINKMAX									2
DRINKMIN									2
DRINKYR									1
EGYPT					C6				
ENGLAND				1					
EQINCOME				1					
EQUALIZE				1					
EQWLTH		1							
EQWLTHY		2							
ETH1									C15
ETH2									C15
ETH3									C15
ETHNIC									C15
ETHNUM									C15
ETHORGS						1			
ETHSPKOK						2			
EVBUYHME							2		
FATHER				3					
FEBEAR							2		
FECARE			2						
FECOLOP				1					
FEFIRM			1						
FEGIVE			2						
FEHIRE								2	2
FEHLPBUS				1					
FEHLPCOL				1					
FEHLPJOB				1					
FEIMP			1						

INCTAX				1
INFLJOBS				1
INTEREST	1	C1		
INTERESY	2		C3	1
INTERESZ	3			
ISRAEL				C6
JAPAN				C6
JOBACCOMP	2			
JOBHELP	2			
JOBHONOR	2			
JOBHOUR	1			
JOBINC	1			
JOBINDEP	2			
JOBINTER	2			
JOBKEEP	2			
JOBMEANS	1			
JBOFF	2			
JOBPAY	2			
JOBPEOP	2			
JOBPROMO	1			
JOBRESP	2			
JOBRISE	2			
JOBSAFE	2			
JOBSALL				1
JOBSEC	1			
JOBSOC	2			
JUDGE			3	
JUDGELUV			1,2	
JUDGMENT	1	C1		
JUDGMENY	2		C3	1
JUDGMENZ	3			
KIDBEAT				1
KIDDRUGS				1
KIDEDPAR				1
KIDHLTH				1
KIDNEEDY				1
KIDOUT				1
KIDSKIPS				1
KIDXFILM				1
KING			3	
KNWMHOSP				1
KNWPATNT				1
LABORPOW				1
LAWFIRM			1,2	
LAWIMP			1,2	
LAWINFO			1,2	
LEARNHME				2
LESSREG				1
LETDIE1				
LIBERATR			3	
LOANED				2
LOCYRS				C14
LOVER			3	
MAKEJOBS				1
MANHOLD				1
MANNERS	1	C1		
MANNERSY	2		C3	1
MANNERSZ	3			
MANREAD				1
MANTAIL				1
MANTAP				1

E1

PRBAPP1				1
PRBAPP2				1
PRBAPP3				1
PRBHLP1				1
PRBHLP2				1
PRBHLP3				1
PRBHLPR1				1
PRBHLPR2				1
PRBHLPR3				1
PRICECON		1		
PROGTAX		1		
PROTEST1		1		
PROTEST2		1		
PROTEST3		1		
PROTEST4		1		
PROTEST5		1		
PROTEST6		1		
PUBDEF		1		
PUBECON		1		
RACCARE	2			
RACDIN		1		
RACFIRM	1			
RACGIVE	2			
RACHOME		C5		
RACIMP	1			
RACINFO	1			
RACJOIN	2			
RACPUB		1		
RACPUSH		1		
RACQUOTA			2	
RACSCHOL		1		
RACSEG		C5		
RACSPEAK		1		
RACTCH15		1		
RACTHINK	2			
RACWRITE	2			
RANK	2			
RDEMLIB	1,2			
REALTORA				2
REALTORB				2
REALTORC				2
REALTORD				2
REALTORE				2
REALTORF				2
REALTORI				2
REDEEMER	3			
RELAGENT				2
RELDEALR				1
RELHOME				2
RELMHOSP				1
RELPRIVT				1
RESPONSI	1	C1		
RESPONSY	2	C3	1	
RESPONSZ	3			
REVPUB		1		
REVSPEAK		1		
REVTCH15		1		
ROLE	1	C1		
ROLEY	2	C3	1	
ROLEZ	3			
RUSSIA			C6	

USWORRY		1
VERDICT	1	
WARRNTYC		1
WARRNTYH		2
WEEKLY		C14
WHOLOAND		1
WHOSOLD		2
WOJOB		C14
WOJOBYRS		C14
WORKHARD	2	
WRKOTH		C14
YEARLY		C14

- a Early in the questionnaire DIVLAW, GRASS, and POLVIEWS were asked on form 1 while DIVLAWY, GRASSY, and POLVIEWY were asked on form 2. DIVLAW, GRASS, and POLVIEWS were also asked at a later point in the survey on form 2. See Appendix B.
- b The experiments were only on versions 4-6.
- C1 - On form 1 ABANY, ABDEFECT, ABHLTH, ABRAPE, ABNOMORE and ABSINGLE appeared immediately before the child qualities question (AMICABLE...SUCCESS) and CHLDIDEL. On form 2 the abortion question immediately followed child qualities and CHLDIDEL.
- C2 - On form 1 CONBUS...CONTV appeared immediately before ALIENATI-6. On form 2 the order was reversed.
- C3 - On forms 1 and 2 the child qualities (AMICABLY...SUCCESSY) were asked in their regular order, items A-M. On form 3 they were in reversed order, items M-A.
- C4 - On form 1 ANOMIA5-7 were grouped together. On form 2 they were scattered throughout the questionnaire. See Appendix B.
- C5 - Form 1 included RACDIN, RACPUSH, and RACSCHOL. These questions did not appear on form 2. BUSING, RACHOME, and RACSEG appeared on both forms. On form 1 they were preceded by RACSCHOL, RACDIN, and RACPUSH.
- C6 - BRAZIL and ENGLAND appeared on only form 1. CANADA, CHINA, EGYPT, ISRAEL, JAPAN, and RUSSIA appeared on both forms.
- C7 - MESERVE immediately preceded FESERVE on form 1. On form 2 the order was reversed.
- C8 - On forms 1 and 2 HAPMAR immediately preceded HAPPY. On form 3 the order was reversed.
- C9 - On form 1 SATCITY, SATFAM, SATFRND, SATHEALT, and SATHOBBY immediately preceded HAPPY and HAPMAR. On form 2 the order was reversed.
- C10 - On form 1 TAX was asked immediately before the spending scale (NATARMS...NATSPAC). On form 2 the order was reversed.
- C11 - On form 1 SATCITY, SATFAM, SATFRND, SATHEALT, AND SATHOBBY came first followed by HAPMAR and then HAPPY. On form 2 HAPMAR came first followed by HAPPY and then SATCITY...SATHOBBY. On form 3 HAPPY came first followed by HAPMAR, and then SATCITY...SATHOBBY.
- C12 - On form 1 the following introduction preceded PARTNERS, "Now we would like you to answer some additional questions. Your answers are confidential and will be used only for statistical reports."
On form 2 PARTNERS was preceded by "There is a great deal of concern today about the AIDS epidemic and how to deal with it. Because of the grave nature of this problem, we are going to ask you some personal questions and we need your frank and honest responses. Your answers are confidential and will be used only for statistical reports."
- C13 - On form 1 SEXFREQ followed SEXSEX. On form 2 SEXFREQ preceded PARTNERS.

- C14- These were asked on form 1 on versions 1-3 and forms 1 and 2 on versions 4-6.
- C15- Two different way of programming these questions were used. On form 2 the program used in 2002 was used. On form 1 an alternative program more similar to that used in pre-CAPI was employed.
- d Experiments were only on the C sample, version 7
- E1- LETDIE1 (Form X), LETDIE1Y (Form Y) "...doctors should OR SHOULD NOT be allowed..." Added text in CAPITALS
LETDIE1Y appears in 2008 cross-section only
- E2- PILLOK (Form X), PILLOKY (Form Y) Do strongly disagree, disagree, agree, or strongly agree that methods of birth control should be available to teenagers between the ages of 14 and 16 if their parents do not approve?
PILLOKY appears in 2008 cross-section only
- E3- POLHITOK (Form X), POLHIToy (Form Y) added at end "or are there no situations you can image in which you would approve of this?
POLHIToy appears in 2008 cross-section only
- E4- POPESPKS (Form X), POPESPky (Form Y) Certainly false, Probably false, I am uncertain whether this is false or true, Probably true, Cc Note: This uses a card and there will be TWO versions of the card.
POPEspky appears in 2008 cross-section only

Science Module Randomization (2008 data)

The Science Module was included in Ballot 1 and Ballot 2 of the questionnaire.

Among those who were assigned to Ballot 3, only 25% received the Science questions.

Within the Science module, some questions were randomly assigned according to the following three conditions:

- 1 SCIINTRO: long or short introduction
 - Long introduction: Now, let me ask you about your use of museums, zoos, and similar institutions. I am going to read you a short list of places and ask you to tell me how many times you visited each type of place during the last year, that is, the last 12 months. If you did not visit any given place, just say none.
 - Short introduction: Now, I am going to read you a short list of places and ask you to tell me how many times you visited each type of place during the last year, that is, the last 12 months. If you did not visit any given place, just say none.
- 2 SCIMODE: assigned to self-administered questionnaire or face-to-face interview mode
- 3 MABOYGRL or BOYORGRL were randomly assigned.
 - MABOYGRL: It is the mother's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl.
 - BOYORGRL: It is the father's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl.